

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 10, and 11 remain pending in this application. Claims 3-9 and 12-22 are withdrawn from consideration and claims 2 and 23 were previously canceled. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. In light of the amendment and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 1, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by WO 024/063,571 ("Huegle"), which was also published as U.S. Application No.: 2004/021,763. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Among the limitations of claim 1 not present in Huegle is "a printing unit comprising a non-pivotably mounted print head ... the print head is configured to move longitudinally together with the printing unit in the push-in direction."

As disclosed in the present specification, printing unit 4 is mounted non-pivotably in a housing such that it can move in the push-in direction 11. The printing unit 4 has a print head 5 fastened to the printing unit 4. The printing unit 4 has a first fork-shaped centering element 28. The first centering element 28 of the printing unit 4 interacts with a second centering element 29 on transport unit 8 of carrier 10 such that the transport unit 8 is centered relative to the printing unit 4 and the print head 5.

The Examiner has taken the position that because the previously presented phrase "the print head is configured to move longitudinally together with the printing unit and push-in direction and the print unit is configured to be moved in the housing within a movement play" is relatively broad and does not exclude pivoting or radial motion. (Office Action at p. 5).

Claim 1 is amended to explicitly recite that the print head is non-pivotably mounted and configured to move laterally together with the print unit and the push-in direction. The explicitly

recited print head being non-pivotably mounted and moving laterally together with the print unit is unlike the pivotal movement of the print head in Huegle that moves in only a radial component P. In contrast to the claimed print head, Huegle teaches a print head 19 assigned to a housing 2 that is only pivotable against springs 59, 60, 61 when a support with a transport roll 16 is inserted into the housing. Since Huegle discloses a print head that is pivotably mounted in the housing 2, Huegle fails to disclose (1) a non-pivotably mounted print head, and (2) that the print head is configured to move longitudinally together with the printing unit in the push-in direction. Therefore, Huegle does not anticipate claim 1 as amended.

Dependent claims 10 and 11 are allowable for the same reasons as is independent claim 1. Upon allowance of generic claim 1, consideration of withdrawn claims 3-9 and 12-22 is requested as including all the limitations of allowable claim 1.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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